

FOR INFORMATION
DA-2007-27
August 07, 2007

SUBJECT: *Sirex noctilio* Fabricius (Sirex woodwasp) in McKean County, Pennsylvania

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On July 17, 2007, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the detection of a single female *Sirex noctilio* woodwasp in McKean County, Pennsylvania. This pest was collected on July 8, 2007, from a trap placed among Scotch pine trees at an abandoned Christmas tree plantation as part of cooperative State and Federal *S. noctilio* survey efforts.

The U.S. Forest Service is cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PADCNR) to conduct *S. noctilio* surveys in seven northwestern Pennsylvania counties. Within these counties, *S. noctilio* trap trees and traps have been deployed at 14 sites. An additional 600 traps were placed throughout central Pennsylvania as part of a cooperative survey effort involving APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and PADCNR. The survey area in Pennsylvania is part of a multi-state detection and delimiting survey that is ongoing in high risk areas throughout the United States.

S. noctilio is an exotic species of wood-boring wasp capable of causing significant mortality in healthy species of pine trees. This pest is present in some parts of the United States. To date, *S. noctilio* is positively confirmed in 25 counties in New York, 3 counties in Pennsylvania, and 1 county in Michigan. This pest is also known to affect 21 counties in the Province of Ontario in Canada. APHIS is currently considering its regulatory options to address *S. noctilio*.

In other countries affected by *S. noctilio*, biological and cultural control programs have been developed to mitigate the impact of this forest pest. PPQ's Center for Plant Health, Science and Technology is presently assessing the feasibility of implementing a biological control program for *S. noctilio* in the United States.

/s/ **Michael A. Lidsky** for

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